

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Figs. 1, 2 and 3 have been labeled as "Prior Art". These sheets replace the original sheets. Marked copies of amended Figs. 1, 2 and 3 are also enclosed. An entire set of replacement drawings is being forwarded for the convenience of the Examiner.

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REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended essentially to incorporate the limitations of claims 2, 3 and 5, which have been cancelled. Claim 9 has been amended essentially to incorporate the limitations of claim 10 which has been cancelled, and also to eliminate "means" language and application of 35 USC§112(6). The specification has been amended to correct clerical errors and to employ more idiomatic English. No new matter has been entered by any of the foregoing amendments.

Turning to the art rejections, in the present invention, an optical disc medium comprises a data recording area and a system information recording area which are set thereon with the optical disc medium divided in a radial direction thereto. The data recording area has a signal quality evaluation index value (PRSNR) value defined by quality evaluation index in a partial-response maximum-likelihood (PRML) that is less than fourteen. The data recording area has a shortest pit length $L1$ of data to be recorded or reproduced that satisfies a relationship of $L1 < 0.35 \times \lambda / NA$, where λ represents a wavelength of a light source for using recording/reproducing and NA represents a numeral aperture of an object lens. The system information recording area having a shortest pit length $L2$ of data to be exclusively reproduced that satisfies a relationship of $L2 > 0.50 \times \lambda / NA$. The system information recording area has a track pitch which is wider than that of the data recording area. With this structure, it is possible to realize stable recoding/reproducing.

It is submitted that none of the claims, as amended can be said to be anticipated by or obvious from the art.

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Neither Blankenbeckler et al. (US 2003/0161254) nor Kawashima et al. (US 2002/0006084) teaches or suggests the subject-matter of independent claims 1 and 9.

Specifically, while Blankenbeckler et al. may disclose an optical storage disc having portions for storing pre-recorded or mastered information and portions for storing user writable information, where the mastered portion and the writable portions have different storage capacities or areal data densities, Blankenbeckler et al. merely discloses, in paragraph [0055], a suitable data-to-data jitter value in regard to quality evaluation index and Blankenbeckler et al. neither discloses nor teaches a reference value of the signal quality evaluation index value (PRSNR) value defined by quality evaluation index in a partial-response maximum-likelihood (PRML). In addition, although Blankenbeckler et al. may, in paragraph [0034], disclose that ROM portion 202 has a lower data density or storage capacity than writable portion 204, Blankenbeckler et al. neither discloses nor teaches a relationship of shortest pit lengths of the data recording area and the system information recording area. As a result, Blankenbeckler et al. is disadvantageous in that stable reproduction may not be insured in a case of continuously reproducing the two portions or areas.

Kawashima et al. may disclose, in paragraph [0067], an optical disc having a read-in area 13 in which the wobble information is recorded. However, Kawashima et al. neither discloses nor teaches in a case of different pit density in a manner of this invention and description for defining signal quality thereof.

Yoshida *et al.* has an US filing date of March 18, 2004. The instant application claims multiple priority including priority from Japanese Application 2003-107644, filed April 11, 2003 (the '644 application). A certified copy of the '644 Japanese Application has already been filed in this case. Accompanying this Amendment is a verified English translation of the

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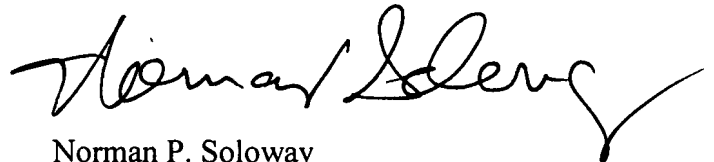
'644 application which perfects Applicants' priority claim, and removes Yoshida *et al.* as citable prior art. Thus, with Yoshida *et al.* removed as prior art, the various rejections based on a combination with Yoshida *et al.* cannot be maintained.

It is therefore submitted that claim 1 and claim 4, which depends thereon, and claim 9 cannot be said to be anticipated by or obvious from the applied art.

Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, the Application is believed to be in order for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account Number 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

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